



#00016 - XXIV - XI - MDCX

Intro

Sweet sixteen?

No, not really. I had some major problems compiling this issue of **1324**, mostly due to a lack of time. It's the first issue that missed its deadline and I hate that fact. Eventually it *did* come together and I reckon the extra time at least assured it become another issue worth reading. There's a review of *Ashens of the Polybius Heist*, two rather sweet drinks, more Twitter nonsense and probably the best headline yet. Will the zine hit its deadline next week? It's something I sadly can not promise, so 'wait and see'... Anyway: enjoy reading the zine!

Ivenne Mecking,
Editor 1324 - Out Of Order

Weather

It's raining, it's raining...



Geel
Belgium
11 °C / 52 °F



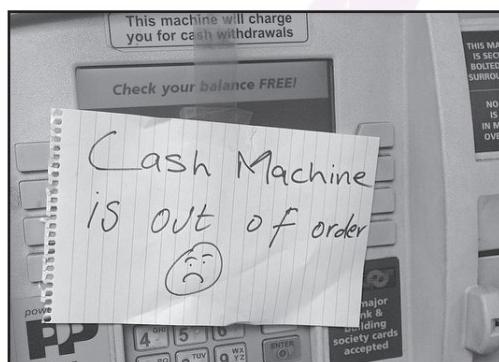
Greencastle
IN, USA
16 °C / 60 °F



Purpleva
Belarus
6 °C / 42 °F

Out Now

Don't bother, currently out of order:



Ah, what a bummer :(even more so because we didn't get the location of this machine and could be subjected its failure at any given moment (hey, we gotta spice these pictures up a little!). Picture by: [Cirofona](#).

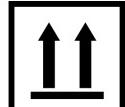
Go Dutch

In one word a week

'Pakket' (noun)

pronounce: pah-cat

This word translates to 'parcel/package'



In a sentence

De postbode bezorgt meer dan 250 pakketten per dag
The postman delivers over 250 parcels a day

Also...

Pakketten (plural, parcels/packages)

Pakketje (diminutive, little package)

Pakketbezorger (Person who delivers packages / postman)

Pakket afhaalpunt (Parcel pickup location)

Een pakket versturen (To send a package)

Little known facts

Nokia N-GAGE

The N-GAGE was a somewhat successful attempt by Nokia to cross a smartphone and a portable video game system. The first model of the N-GAGE (simply called the 'Classic') was launched in 2003 and cost \$299. The unit was fairly powerful with an ARM processor, support for MMC cards and the OS (Symbian) came with bluetooth, MP3 and GPRS (for e-mail / internet) functionalities. On the games front you could say they were a lot more sophisticated than most other mobile games with ports of popular titles like *Tomb Raider*, *Tony Hawk's Skateboarding* and *Super Monkey Ball*. The N-GAGE had one huge design flaw, though: you needed to remove the battery before you could insert another game. The second model of the N-GAGE (called the QD) fixed this, but it was too little too late and the machine was ultimately discontinued in 2007.

Trivia

Plenty of questions. Can you come up with the answers?

- [01] What realm could you find on the south of the *Sahara* desert?
- [02] What is the currency in Egypt?
- [03] In which city was the 2010 World Cup final played?
- [04] On what island did the *Dodo* live?
- [05] What inanimate object played a large role in the movie *The Gods must be Crazy* (1980).
- [06] *Bobotie* is a dish from which country?
- [07] Which Guinean singer had a hit in the 80's with *Yéké yéké*?
- [08] What B is the name for the *Tree of Life* from Madagascar?
- [09] Name two colours used on the flag of Zambia?
- [10] What is Africa's largest country: Nigeria or Algeria?
- [11] What's the capital of Tunesia?
- [12] Lesotho is an enclaved country. What does that mean?
- [13] Can you actually drink water from a cactus?
- [14] The *Matoke* is a variety of which type of fruit?
- [15] What is the most spoken language in Africa?

Answers on page four.

From the Machine: Stamp Booklets

Vending machines around the world. This week: the machine that time (or the Dutch postal service) forgot



I recently reminded a nearly village had an interesting artifact from a different time: a machine selling *postzegelboekjes* (stamp booklets). This machine was probably installed in the 70's or 80's and left abandoned sometime in the 90's. You would simply insert 4 guldens (the *gulden* was the currency of The Netherlands before the Euro made its entrance in 2002) and the machine would dispense a booklet with either 10 stamps of 80 cents or 5 stamps of 70 cents + 5 stamps of 10 cents. Different times indeed because these days you're paying €0,87 (f1,91!) for a single stamp and the price is expected to rise even more early next year. Anyway, back to the machine. It surprised me to see it was imported to the Netherlands...

Sterners Spezialfabriks AB

It may sound like a German name, but this company is actually from Dala-järna, Sweden (then and NOW!). These days, the Sterners company is producing payment and ticket machines for car washes, campsites and tanning stations(!). Interestingly, their official site even has special section regarding their stamp vending machines. A quote:

"The key to success is often having the drive, dedication and determination to find solutions and think outside the box. When Erik U Sternér acquired the company in 1946, production consisted of various forms of iron working and the time was ripe for a rethink."

Sternér had seen a photograph of a vending machine from America. He saw a business opportunity in self-service vending machines and vowed: "I'm going to make this kind of product at our factory here in Sweden."

New machinery was procured and new know-how started to be developed. In the early 1950s, the Swedish postal service announced a competition to manufacture stamp vending machines. Sterners developed an ideal product for this application and won the competition.

The first stamp vending machine was manufactured in 1952 and following its initial sales success in Sweden, also soon became a major export product. The stamp vending machine remained in production until the early 1980s, with 80 percent exported."

It explains a little how this 'postzegelboekjes automaat' ended up in the Netherlands. PTT Post (the name of Dutch postal service back then, before it was changed to TPG Post and eventually PostNL) imported these machines, and installed them next to many a postbox.

Just one question remains: is it still operating? I would lie if I said I haven't been wondering. I would say chances it still has a few booklets inside AND is still dispensing them (by some magic) are about 1 percent. That said, to get closure on this I will source a few old *gulden* coins and will return to this machine that time forgot. Expect an update in a future issue of **1324**.

Ashens and the Polybius Heist: Review

A non-spoiler review of the 'Heist of the Century'? We're on it.

No we're not doing the 'Who is Ashens?' or 'What is the movie's plot?' bits this time: we're diving straight in and will try to dance around spoilers. The movie starts (just like last time) with an excellent intro (complete with theme song) to set the mood. Within a minute of the movie itself you know it doesn't take itself too seriously and the first couple of jokes have landed nicely. The movie is split up pretty much 50/50. After the introduction of Stuart's team (and several other characters) and the creation of the plan, the heist is underway at halfway point. Yes, you can see the similarities between the stuff that goes on in other films like *Ocean's 11* (with each team member have their own set of skills), but plot-wise that's pretty much

were the similarities end as *Ashens and the Polybius Heist* takes a far more offbeat and humorous approach.

One Hell of a Heist

The quality of the footage, the acting or the soundtrack certainly aren't lacking either. Sure, this isn't a multi-million Hollywood production but they are equally impressive, especially considering the movie's tiny budget. It's quite mindblowing a large part of the movie's cast aren't actors in their day jobs. Good casting, there! So the heist itself: 'A heist is a heist is a heist'? Well, yes and no. Sure, there's a few things you can see happening, but there's certainly a good a mix of

action, comedy and, yes, even a little tension going on. Any niggles? Hmm, not many. A certain scene around the 1h15m mark isn't working that well as a certain someone lacks surprised emotion (cryptic much?) and, if we're really pedantic, the font used on the intertitles isn't that great and a little small. A final question mark can be placed on the (box) art used. We feel it's kind of strange it omits one the movie's major characters yet has someone that hardly has any lines. We understand the reasons behind this decision, but it's still kind of an odd choice. Anyway, we loved *Ashens and The Polybius Heist* and we can only suggest you go see it. Youtubers take note: THIS is how you do a movie.

[[Ashens and the Polybius Heist](#)]

Twitter Nonsense [2]

More lighthearted Twitter accounts

Twitter just added another new feature (called 'fleets') that doesn't seem to do much apart from cluttering up your interface. It's of course just a 'stolen' feature based on Instagram's 'story' section. Where was I going with this again? Oh yeah, Twitter nonsense...

Poorly Aged Things (@poorlyagedstuff)

Some things age like wine, others turn rather sour. The account *Poorly Aged Things* highlights advertisements, quotes and pictures that aged rather poorly. Granted, not every tweet is solid gold (there's a lot of political stuff in there), but there's certainly some gems to be found...



'Angry man destroys Twin Towers. More news at eight'. A comic book cover that aged poorly? You could say so, yes.

Wholesome Memes (@WholesomeMeme)

Memes: love 'em or hate them. We love them and we don't mind if they're wholesome either. There's enough nastiness in the world already. Ready for a street artist playing guitar for a crowd of cats or a dog leaning out of window below a sign that says 'free kisses'? Go follow Wholesome Memes.

One Block Every Day (@mcblockdaily)

Good things come to those who wait? This account lets follow the progress of a Minecraft house build by only adding one block a day. The account is fairly new so there's just a few walls and a single staircase at the moment. It should be good for, ooh, at least 20 seconds of enjoyment every day.

Art or not Art (@artdecider)

'Some tweets are art. Some tweets are not art. This tweet is art. I am the art decider.' So, yeah. Not sure whether your tweet is art or not? Let them decide. This is an account which supports all kinds of artists, some big but mostly small, something we can only wholeheartedly support. They've actually won a *Webby* award earlier this year so they're doing rather well!



Hey guys, reserve me that copy of *Chasing Amy* on VHS please. Thanks.

The last Blockbuster (@loneblockbuster)

At its peak in 2004, the video rental chain *Blockbuster* consisted of 9,094 stores and employed approximately 84,300 people. These days, there's just the one. They're still renting out DVD's AND VHS tapes (wow...) and they're pretty active on Twitter too.

James Fridman (@fjamie013)

'Hey James, here's a photo of me which my friend photobombed. Can you make him disappear? It's a potential profile pic and he's ruining it'. Sure he can, just don't expect the result you've hoped for. A hilarious collection of rather genius photoops.

The Drink without a Stick

A sampling of Chupa Chups: The Drinks



If you've been reading **1324** for a while you might remember the feature of the brand in issue #4. In the large list of 'all things Chupa Chups' we didn't mention the drinks. Strange, because we've seen them around. It was only a matter of time before the brand would cross our path again and, yes, earlier this week couldn't help but notice a large chain of Poundland-esque stores in the Netherlands were selling two Chupa Chups drinks. Here they are...

Sparkling -Melon Cream Flavour

This was the first to be sampled as strawberry is just a big 'meh' 'round these parts. It had a pretty sweet smell with a slight sour undertone. It tasted pretty much exactly like you'd expect: very sweet, with a (chemical) melon

flavour and 'creamy' aftertaste. Some fizz, but not much. Sadly, it went from 'hey, this is alright!' to 'Hm...' and finally 'that's enough of that' in a matter of a couple of sips. An appalling sugar bomb (nearly 40 grams of sugar in one can!) but little else. Next!

Sparkling -Strawberry flavour

Any better? Surprisingly: yes! Despite having an equal amount of sugar this had a slightly sour taste (and smell) which made it less sickly sweet. If you like strawberry milkshakes, this would come close. Not something to buy again, but to try once: not too bad. If you want your soda to be mixed with milk try the *Milkis* (regular or strawberry) by *Lotte* (a Korean brand); they're better than these.

FREE: Movie

Sorry, no popcorn included

Congratulations to JWP from the Philippines (wow!) for winning yourself a free download of *Ashens and the Polybius Heist!* We'll be in touch soon. We're extending the contest for another week (with another winner) so to stand a chance of winning a free download of the movie complete this sentence and send it [to us](#) by December 4th: 'Naught to three...'

Good luck!



If only there was a hint somewhere on this page, right? Bah...

Quality Quote

Words to go by

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'

-Margaret Mead

1324 Online

Website address

You can find us at: www.1324.online

The official site is frequently updated with the download links to each and every issue as well as an overview of all the included topics. Take a look and download a few why don't you...

Baked Alaska

Alaska's marijuana tax revenue jumps for first half of 2020



The medical use of cannabis is legalized (with a doctor's recommendation) in 35 states.

Normally we don't 'do' much news stories here in 1324 (because it's not longer news by the time an issue is published), but as this story was kind of interesting we made an exception. Currently, the recreational use of cannabis is legalized in 15 US states, including Alaska. Fairbanks, a city in Alaska, now reported a big increase in marijuana sales tax revenue in the beginning of 2020.

The total revenue cannabis businesses in the Fairbanks area brought during the first six months of 2020 reached approx. \$820,000, which is 30% more they brought in the fast half of 2019, according to the data from the Community Planning Department. Alaska is far from the only place on earth where the pandemic had an impact on the cannabis industry, however. Check out this [specially created Wikipedia page](#) for proof of that. Who would've thought?

Trivia: The Answers

Plenty of answers. Can you come up with the questions?

- [01] The Sahel
- [02] The Egyptian Pound
- [03] Johannesburg
- [04] Mauritius
- [05] A coke bottle
- [06] South Africa
- [07] Mory Kante
- [08] Baobab
- [09] You could've picked from: green, red, black and orange.
- [10] Algeria. Nigeria is only number 5 on the list.
- [11] Tunis
- [12] It's a country completely within the borders of another
- [13] Generally, no. The cactuslike plants found in the deserts of southern Africa and Madagascar are actually toxic, for example.
- [14] It's a type of banana indigenous to Uganda.
- [15] Swahili. Followed by Arabic and French.

See you next week?

#B662AD